

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT**

April 14, 2015

7:00 p.m.

BE IT KNOWN that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Natchitoches Levee and Drainage District was called in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Natchitoches Parish Courthouse, Natchitoches, Louisiana, on April 14, 2015, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator
Janet Jones, Secretary
Doris Rogé, Member
Billy Giddens, Member
Terry Sklar, Member
Mark Swafford, Member
Rayburn Smith, Member

Absent were:

Charles Brazzel, Jr., Member

Also present were:

Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer
Billy Dunn, Foreman
Alan Shephard, Edko

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District was called to order at 7:00 p.m by the Assistant Secretary, Ronald E. Corkern, Jr.

Following public comments, a Motion was made by Rayburn Smith to amend the agenda to discuss the spraying proposal made by Edko, LLC and to approve same. The Motion was seconded by Doris Rogé. The Motion passed unanimously and the proposal for spraying was added to the agenda.

The minutes of the March, 2015 meeting were read and discussed. Following public comments, a Motion was made by Janet Jones and seconded by Doris Rogé, to approve the March, 2015 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The March, 2015 financial statement was reviewed and discussed. Board members inquired as to what the invoices from H&E were for. The Board requested Billy Dunn to review the invoices with Mr. Corkern so that he could report to the Board at the next meeting what services had been provided by H&E and what the payments were for. Following public comments, a Motion was made by Mark Swafford and seconded by Billy Giddens to approve the March, 2015 financial statement. This Motion passed unanimously.

The maintenance report was given by the Maintenance Superintendent, Billy Dunn. Mr. Dunn advised that his crew had closed two gates on Red River and Saline Bayou when the water was high. All of the gates are now open.

The crew has also cleared Channel L-13 at the wildlife refuge near Clourtierville. It was necessary to put a gate across the levee in that area because hunters and others were accessing the wildlife refuge to hunt and were driving up and down the sides of the levee in order to park their vehicles.

Mr. Dunn further advised that they had finished cleaning at Melrose. He also advised that beaver dams on Mr. Wellans' property and Ludlow McNeely's property had been broken out and as a result they were able to get the water off of the trees in those areas. Another beaver dam was located on Van Eversull's property. This dam was not in our drainage ditch, but was actually a couple of miles away. However, it was causing water to back up all the way to the levee. Mr. Dunn talked with Mr. Eversull's employee and that employee broke the dam out. The water drained and is not now backing up on our levee.

The crew has also been spraying the rock and area around the flood gates at Campti-Clarence. There is more spraying to do in this area.

Mr. Dunn reported that the cable on the gate located at Rayburn Smith's place broken when they were operating the grate. The cable had to be replaced and a new one was purchased from Magnolia Steel.

Mr. Dunn also reported that he had contacted Gary (the individual who trapped beavers for us earlier) about trapping beavers again. Gary advised that we should wait until the water receded. We will contract with this individual to again trap beavers as soon as practical.

Mr. Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer, reported that bids had been received and opened on the lower Cane River floodgates at Clourtierville under Highway 495. The bids are currently under review. The lowest bid was from W. L. Bass in the amount of \$889,189.00.

Mr. Sticker also received a call from the Corps of Engineers regarding Channel L-20. Mr. Sticker had previously inquired as to whether we would need a wetlands permit to clean this channel. He was advised by the Corps that someone from Robert Alleman's office would be contacting him, and it may be necessary to conduct a site inspection to determine if a 404 Permit would be required.

Mr. Sticker also advised that he had reviewed the permit application for a fence at Marco, and contacted Mr. Strother to discuss this application. Mr. Strother advised that he had intended to submit two possible alternatives, one with only a fence crossing the levee, and another option with the fence crossing the levee and paralleling LA 490 and the levee. Mr. Sticker was concerned about the space between the toe of the levee and the roadway. There is not sufficient space to build a fence, and certainly you could not do so and be 15' from the toe of the levee. Mr. Sticker expects to receive clarification from Mr. Strother as to which proposal they would like to pursue. He will review the proposal with Billy Dunn because even a fence crossing the levee at that location could result in difficulty mowing the levee and having sufficient space to turn the tractor around.

A general discussion then followed regarding the purchase of a backhoe. Quotes for the purchase and lease of a backhoe under the State contract were received from Scott Equipment and from Doggett. The proposal from Doggett for a John Deere Backhoe was approximately \$10,000 less than the quote received from Scott Equipment. The lease proposal from Doggett for the John Deere Backhoe was also less than the proposal received from Scott Equipment. The quoted lease proposal was for 2000 hours annually at \$1,099.50 per month. This would be a three-year lease. Mr. Sklar inquired as to whether we really expected to use the backhoe for 2000 hours. He suggested we get a quote for 1000 hours of annual use. Following further discussion, the Board determined that a three-year lease would be preferable to purchasing a backhoe. After public comments, a Motion was made by Terry Sklar and seconded by Mark Swafford to authorize the lease of a John Deere Backhoe from Doggett for a price of no more

than \$1,099.50 per month for 2000 hours. However, if a cheaper quote was received for fewer hours of operation then we should select the lower quote with fewer hours of operation. The Motion passed unanimously.

A discussion then followed regarding the annual Legislative meeting of the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana. This meeting will be held in Baton Rouge in conjunction with the Legislative session on May 7-8, 2015. Reservations have been made for Doris Rogé, Janet Jones and Ronald Corkern. Karlton Methvin did not know if he would be able to attend because of his work schedule, but will attend if at all possible.

Alan Shepherd, District Manager, for Edko, presented a proposal for spraying from Edko as per his letter of April 14, 2015. Following a discussion of the proposal, a Motion was made by Rayburn Smith, and seconded by Terry Sklar, to accept the Edko proposal. The Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a Motion was made by Janet Jones and seconded by Doris Rogé to adjourn. The Board verbally voted unanimously in favor of the Motion.

Approved on the 12th day of May, 2015, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

RONALD E. CORKERN, JR.,
Attorney/Assistant Secretary